

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing or transmitting a video including an object of interest, ~~the method~~ comprising:

C capturing a sequence of images in which the object of interest occupies a fraction of each captured image;

tracking movement of the object of interest and selecting and extracting a region of each captured image including the object of interest;

compensating for changes in size of the object of interest in the sequence of images;  
and

coding only the selected region of each captured image, after compensating for changes in the size of the object of interest, to produce a coded region.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
stabilizing the object of interest with the selected region.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the selected region is selected so that the object of interest is centered within the selected region.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
transmitting the coded region; and  
decoding and displaying the selected region.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the selected region is displayed in a format comprising fewer pixels than the format of the captured image.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the object of interest occupies less than a predetermined fraction of each captured image.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the object of interest occupies a predetermined fraction of each captured image.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a video including an object of interest in a sequence of images, ~~the method~~ comprising:

selecting a region of an image including the object of interest, the selected region being of a predetermined size;

compensating for changes in size of the object of interest in the sequence of images;

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and

coding the selected region after compensating for changes in the size of the object of interest.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein only the selected region is coded and the rest of the image is discarded.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the selected region corresponds to a predetermined image format having fewer pixels than the format of the image.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the image is in CIF format and the selected region is in QCIF format.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the selected region is scaled to compensate for movement of the object of interest backward and forward relative to a camera that captured the image.

13. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the object of interest is stabilized within the selected region.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the selected region is selected so that the object of interest is centered in the selected region.

C 15. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a video including an object of interest in a sequence of images, ~~the method~~ comprising:  
selecting a region of an image including the object of interest, wherein the selected region is larger than an area occupied by the object of interest by a predetermined amount, including when the size of the object of interest changes in the sequence of images; and coding said selected region.

16. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the object of interest occupies a predetermined percentage of the selected region.

17. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:  
scaling the selected region to a predetermined size.

18. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the predetermined size corresponds to a known image format.

19. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the image is in CIF format and the selected region is scaled to QCIF format.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting video images, comprising:  
processing the video images using the method of claim 8;  
transmitting encoded image data of the video images; and  
receiving, decoding, and displaying the image data.

21. (Canceled)

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22. (Currently Amended) An image processing circuit, comprising:  
~~means~~ a region extractor for extracting configured to extract a region of each captured image in a sequence of images including an object of interest;  
a processor configured to compensate for changes in size of the object of interest in the sequence of images; and  
~~means~~ a coder for coding configured to code only the extracted region of each captured image.

23. (Currently Amended) An image processing circuit, comprising:  
~~means~~ a region extractor for selecting configured to select a region of an image including an object of interest, the selected region being of a predetermined size;  
a processor configured to compensate for changes in size of the object of interest in the sequence of images; and  
~~means~~ a coder for coding configured to code the selected region.

24. (Currently Amended) An image processing circuit, comprising:

~~means a region selector for selecting~~ configured to select a region of an image such that an object of interest occupies a predetermined percentage of the region, including when the size of the object of interest changes in the sequence of images; and

~~means a coder for coding~~ configured to code said region.

25-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:

compensating for changes in the size of the object of interest in the sequence of images.

33-52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently Amended) A circuit as claimed in claim 22, further comprising:

~~means an object tracker for tracking~~ configured to track movement of the object of interest in the sequence of images.

54. (Currently Amended) A circuit as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:

~~means an object tracker for tracking~~ configured to track movement of the object of interest in the sequence of images.

55. (Currently Amended) A circuit as claimed in claim 24, further comprising:

~~means an object tracker for tracking~~ configured to track movement of the object of interest in the sequence of images.

56-57. (Canceled)

58. (Currently Amended) A circuit as claimed in claim 24, further comprising:

~~means for compensating a processor configured to compensate~~ for changes of the size of the object of interest in a sequence of images.

59. (Currently Amended) ~~a processor~~ A video image processing circuit, comprising:

~~means for performing a processor configured to perform the~~ a method as claimed in ~~any of the claims 21 and 30-52~~ 1, 8, or 15.

60. (Currently Amended) ~~a processor~~ A video image processing device comprising a camera and a the circuit as claimed in ~~any of claims 22-24 and 53-58~~ claims 22, 23, or 24.

61. (Currently Amended) ~~a processor~~ A mobile phone comprising a the circuit as claimed in ~~any of the claims 22-24 and 53-58~~ claims 22, 23, or 24.

62. (Currently Amended) A mobile phone comprising a the device as claimed in claim 60.

63. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of compensating for changes in the size of the object of interest in the sequence of images comprises scaling the

extracted region of at least some of the images in the sequence of images so that the size of the object of interest is approximately a same size throughout the sequence of images.

64. (New) A method of transmitting video images, comprising:

processing the video images using the method as claimed in claim 15;

transmitting encoded image data of the video images; and

receiving, decoding, and displaying the image data.

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